

Report on Narcotics Offenders Released

The third in a series of reports on narcotic offenders prepared by the State Department of Justice's Bureau of Criminal Statistics was released this week by Attorney General Stanley Mosk.

In issuing the report Mosk stated that its purpose "is to gather reliable and informative statistical data on various aspects of the narcotic situation and to publish this information so that all those concerned will have factual information upon which constructive administrative or legislative action may be based." He emphasized that "the compilation of these data could not have been accomplished without the complete support and cooperation of law enforcement agencies throughout the state."

The lengthy report which is titled "Narcotic Arrests and Their Disposition in California—1960," states that during the calendar year a total of 19,243 adults and juveniles were arrested for narcotic violations. Approximately two-thirds of these were in Los Angeles county alone. Over 83 per cent occurred in Southern California.

THE REPORT shows that during 1960 nearly half the addict-users arrested had already been arrested at least once since the narcotic study began in July 1959. The report speculates that by 1962 half of all narcotic offenders arrested will be repeaters. As of Dec. 31, 1960, there were 17,783 different adults in the statistical files.

One table in the report indicates that over one-third of all adult arrests during 1960 were for addition or use. One out of every four arrests was for a marijuana offense. Only 133, or less than 1 per cent of the adult arrests were for sale of narcotics or drugs to a minor.

"The specter of a shadowy figure loitering about every school ground or other place where youths congregate, soliciting and imploring them to use narcotics has possibly been grossly over-popularized. In most instances the youth is probably enticed, or at least offered the opportunity for use, by someone on a more personal level. A youngster might 'turn on' his girl friend or buddy for example, he himself having started in a similar manner."

MEN ACCOUNTED for 85 per cent of all adult arrests states the report. The report goes on to show the youthfulness of narcotic offenders. Almost half of the adults were 25 or younger. Only 8 per cent were over 40 years of age.

"In a little more than half of all arrests the arrestee was known to be a user of a heroin-type narcotic," declares the report. "A strong relationship may be observed between heroin-type offenses and heroin-type narcotic usage. This would seem to indicate that the person arrested for possession or sale of heroin was either already a user or at least a potential user, of that narcotic."

The report says that for several reasons it is not possible to give an exact count of the number of "addicts" in the state. A previous estimate that there are, perhaps, 10,000 to 20,000 such offenders is still

National Guard Resumes Active Duty Training

Six months active duty for training program for the California Army National Guard has resumed, with generous monthly quotas allotted to the State of California for each month through June, 1962, it was announced in Sacramento by Maj. Gen. Roderick L. Hill, state adjutant general.

The California National Guard needs 1,300 men to meet its current strength requirement, General Hill said. Enlistments have been reopened for men without prior military training, he added.

Details of the program will be available at local armories, he said.

Marine Aviation Cadet Dallas R. Griffin, son of Mrs. Irene Griffin of 2064 22nd St., reported, Dec. 11, for training at the Naval School of Pre-Flight at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Fla.

At the end of the 16-week pre-flight and officer indoctrination course, the aviation cadets will be sent to another field in the Pensacola area for primary flight instructions.

the best guess that can be made.

ACCORDING TO the report a total of 7,701 adults were convicted of a narcotic charge during 1960. This represents 45.7 per cent of the total dispositions. In an additional 13.1 per cent of the cases the narcotic charge was dropped in favor of some other prosecution or administrative action. The highest percentages of convictions were for sale of either type narcotics. The lowest percentage of conviction were for possession of marijuana and for narcotic addiction.

The report shows that of the narcotic defendants who appeared in court and were convicted less than 7 per cent were convicted of a lesser charge than the one for which arrested.

"OF THE 7,701 adults convicted of narcotic offenses during 1960, a total of 1,295 or 16.8 per cent received prison sentences; 261 or 3.4 per cent Youth Authority commitments; 3,007 or 39.1 per cent straight jail sentences; 1,721 or 22.3 per cent probation with jail sentences; 1,096 or 14.2 per cent straight probation sentences; and 321 or 4.2 per cent fines only. For about four out of five arrestees some type of state or local incarceration was involved."

The report has a section on juvenile arrests in which it is shown that 1,624 juveniles were arrested during 1960. "Los An-

geles County accounted for 1,210 of these arrests, with the remaining 414 occurring in the rest of the state. Of the total arrestees, 1,316 were boys and 303 were girls." The report adds "that 912 or 56.2 per cent of all juvenile arrests were for marijuana offenses. Heroin-type offenses including the addict-user group, amounted to only 157 or 9.7 per cent of the total."

A NEW SECTION on "First offenders" is included in the report for the first time. The report states that during 1960 there were 7,527 individual adults and juveniles arrested whose arrest records indicated this was their very first narcotic arrest. "The first offense for 31.4 per cent of these new offenders was possession of marijuana, with almost an equal number (31.2 per cent) having their initial arrest for a dangerous drug offense.

Approximately 14 per cent of the first arrests were for narcotic addiction or use." The reports adds, "The largest percentage of offenders were in the 20-25 age group; however, the number aged 20 and under were only slightly less. For 45.5 per cent of these arrestees there was no known use of narcotics, 20.3 per cent were believed to be users of heroin and other narcotics, 15.3 per cent were marijuana users only, and 18.9 per cent used only dangerous drugs."

THE REPORT states "that

over two-thirds (69.2 per cent) of the new narcotic offenders already had criminal histories at the time of their first recorded narcotic arrest. In the case of those new alleged addict-users, 77.7 per cent already had criminal records. These data would seem to demonstrate that the narcotic offender is first a criminal before he becomes involved in narcotic activity. On this basis, the statement that narcotic offenders are forced into a life of crime to support their narcotic habit cannot be supported by the facts available."

"Although it cannot yet be definitely proven, the report does give indication of a close association between dangerous drugs, marijuana, and heroin. There appears to be some confirmation of the idea that narcotic offenders begin with the use of dangerous drugs and/or marijuana and then progress to the highly addictive heroin."

THE REPORT concludes with the statement that "law enforcement officials are doing everything within their means to keep the narcotic problem from becoming greater. The sheer volume of arrests alone shows clearly the emphasis given narcotic enforcement.

The fact that there are so many users and yet so few reported to have suffered withdrawal symptoms after arrest gives evidence that energetic enforcement is contributing materially to control of the situation."

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